

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A focal-plane shutter for a digital still camera comprising:
 - a first base plate having a first aperture for a photography optical path;
 - a second base plate, having a second aperture for a photography optical path which matches said first aperture, for forming a blade room between said first base plate and said second base plate;
 - a plurality of arms mounted on one of said first and second base plates;
 - a shutter blade made up of one or more blades, supported by said plurality of arms, which is reciprocally moved between a first position where said shutter blade is retracted from said photography optical path and a second position where said shutter blade covers said photography optical path in said blade room;
 - a driving member, mounted on said first base plate outside said blade room, which presses one of said arms only at the time of action by the force from a driving spring so that said shutter blade is moved in a first direction;
 - a motor, mounted on said second base plate outside said blade room, which moves said shutter blade in said first direction and in a second direction, through one of said plurality of arms corresponding to reciprocal rotation of the stator of said motor;
 - a set member, mounted on said first base plate outside said blade room, which moves from an initial position so that said driving member is moved to a set position against the force from said driving spring; and
 - holding means which hold said driving member at a set position at least during movement of said set member for returning to said initial position, with the holding force thereof being released during the movement of said shutter blade by the force from said driving spring.
2. (original) A focal-plane shutter for a digital still camera according to Claim 1, wherein said arm which is moved by said driving means and said arm which is moved by said motor, are the same arm.

3. (original) A focal-plane shutter for a digital still camera according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein a current is continuously applied to said motor so that said shutter blade is forced so as to move in said second direction from the point in time at which the movement of said shutter blade in said second direction is started, up to the point in time at which said shutter blade reaches the position where said arms of said shutter blade can be pushed, following which a predetermined time period elapses.

4. (original) A focal-plane shutter for a digital still camera according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein a current is applied to said motor so that said shutter blade is forced so as to move in said first direction, from the point in time at which the movement of said shutter blade in said first direction is started, at least up to the point in time at which said shutter blade is stopped at a first position by coming into contact with a stopper.

5. (original) A focal-plane shutter for a digital still camera according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, further comprising:

an intermediate plate, having a third aperture which matches said first and second apertures for said photography optical path, which partitions a space between said first base plate and said second base plate into two blade rooms so that said shutter blade is disposed in one of said two blade rooms;

a second shutter blade, made up of one or more blades and supported by a plurality of arms mounted on one of said two base plates, which is reciprocally moved between a first position where said shutter blade covers said photography optical path and a second position where said shutter blade is retracted from said photography optical path in the other blade room or said two blade rooms;

a second driving member, mounted on said first base plate outside said blade room, which moves said second shutter blade in a first direction at the time of being moved by the force from a second driving spring, and moves said second shutter blade in a second direction at the time of being moved to a set position by said set member against the force from said second driving spring; and

second holding means which hold said second driving member at said set position at least during movement of said set member for returning to said initial position, with the holding force thereof being released during the movement of said second shutter blade by the force from said second driving spring.

6. (original) A focal-plane shutter for a digital still camera according to Claim 3, further comprising:

an intermediate plate, having a third aperture which matches said first aperture and said second aperture for said photography optical path, which partitions a space between said first base plate and said second base plate into two blade rooms so that said shutter blade is disposed in one of said two blade rooms;

a second shutter blade, made up of one or more blades and supported by a plurality of arms mounted on one of said two base plates, which is reciprocally moved between a first position where said shutter blade covers said photography optical path and a second position where said shutter blade is retracted from said photography optical path in the other blade room of said two blade rooms;

a second driving member, mounted on said first base plate outside said blade room, which moves said second shutter blade in a first direction at the time of being moved by the force from a second driving spring, and moves said second shutter blade in a second direction at the time of being moved to a set position by said set member against the force from said second driving spring; and

second holding means which hold said second driving member at said set position at least during movement of said set member for returning to said initial position, with the holding force thereof being released during the movement of said second shutter blade by the force from said second driving spring.

7. (original) A focal plane shutter for a digital still camera according to Claim 4, further comprising:

an intermediate plate, having a third aperture which matches said first aperture and said second aperture for said photography optical path, which partitions a space between said first base plate and said second base plate into two blade rooms so that said shutter blade is disposed in one of said two blade rooms;

a second shutter blade, made up of one or more blades and supported by a plurality of arms mounted on one of said two base plates, which is reciprocally moved between a first position where said shutter blade covers said photography optical path and a second position where said shutter blade is retracted from said photography optical path in the other blade room of said two blade rooms;

a second driving member, mounted on said first base plate outside said blade room, which moves said second shutter blade in a first direction at the time of being moved by the force from a second driving spring, and moves said second shutter blade in a second direction at the time of being moved to a set position by said set member against the force from said second driving spring; and

second holding means which hold said second driving member at said set position at least during movement of said set member for returning to said initial position, with the holding force thereof being released during the movement of said second shutter blade by the force from said second driving spring.

8. (currently amended) A focal-plane shutter for a digital still camera according to Claim 5 ~~or Claim 6~~, wherein said shutter blade is a first blade, and said second shutter blade is a second blade.

9. (original) A focal-plane shutter for a digital still camera according to Claim 7, wherein said shutter blade is a first blade, and said second shutter blade is a second blade.